

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 42 and 48 as shown below, and cancel Claims 46 and 52-53. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-41 previously cancelled

42. (Currently Amended) A method for closing a wound or incision comprising the steps of:
- a) providing a bandage for closing said wound or incision, the bandage comprising:
 - i) a first component having adhesive on a lower surface and a plurality of first elongated connectors extending from one edge thereof in a first direction, the plurality of first elongated connectors having adhesive on a surface for attaching the first elongated connectors to the second component of step a)ii);
 - ii) a second component having adhesive on a lower surface and at least one second elongated connector extending from one edge thereof in a second direction generally opposite to said first direction, the at least one second elongated connector having adhesive on a surface for attaching the at least one second elongated connector to the first component of step a)i);
each of the plurality of first elongated connectors being sufficiently spaced-apart from the at least one adjacent second elongated connector to facilitate adjustment of the first component relative to the second component in a direction parallel to the wound or incision;
 - b) attaching said lower surface of said first component to a patient's skin along a first side of said wound or incision;
 - c) attaching said lower surface of said second component to the patient's skin along a second side of said wound or incision;
 - d) aligning the edges of the first and second components in a direction parallel to their edges and closing the wound or incision;
 - e) fixing the first and second components relative to one another by:
 - i) attaching said first elongated connectors to said second component; and

- ii) attaching said at least one second elongated connector to said first component.
43. (Original) The method of Claim 42 wherein the elongated connectors are sufficiently spaced-apart to facilitate adjustment of the first component relative to the second component for alignment of the edge of the first component with the edge of the second component.
44. (Original) The method of Claim 42 further comprising the steps of:
- a) providing a first pulling element joined to said first elongated connectors;
 - b) providing a second pulling element joined to said at least one second elongated connector; and
 - c) pulling on each of said pulling elements to align said first and second components so as to close the wound or incision.
45. (Original) The method of Claim 44 further comprising the steps of:
- a) removing said first pulling element from said first elongated connectors; and
 - b) removing said second pulling element from said at least one elongated connector.
46. (Currently Cancelled) The method of Claim 42 wherein said bandage further comprises adhesive applied to a surface of each of said elongated connectors and wherein said adhesive attaches said first elongated connectors to said second component and attaches said at least one elongated connector to said first component.
47. (Original) The method of claim 45 wherein two or more elongated connectors are attached to said second component.
48. (Currently Amended) A two-component bandage for closing a wound or incision comprising:

- a) a first component having adhesive on a lower surface and a plurality of first elongated connectors extending from one edge thereof in a first direction, the plurality of first elongated connectors having adhesive on a surface for attaching the first elongated connectors to the second component of step b); and
- b) a second component having adhesive on a lower surface and at least one second elongated connector extending from one edge thereof in a second direction generally opposite to the first direction, the at least one second elongated connector having adhesive on a surface for attaching the at least one second elongated connector to the first component of step a); and
- c) ~~means for attaching said first elongated connectors to the second component and means for attaching said at least one elongated connector to the first component;~~

wherein the elongated connectors are sufficiently spaced-apart to facilitate adjustment of the first component relative to the second component for alignment of the edge of the first component with the edge of the second component in a direction parallel the wound or incision.

49. (Original) The bandage of Claim 48 wherein said first and second elongated connectors are interleaved.
50. (Original) The bandage of Claim 48 wherein there are two or more of said elongated connectors extending from said one edge of second component.
51. (Original) The bandage of Claim 48 further comprising a first pulling element joined to said first elongated connectors and a second pulling element joined to said at least one second elongated connector.
52. (Currently Cancelled) The bandage of Claim 48 wherein the means for attaching of step c) is adhesive.

53. (Currently Cancelled) The bandage of Claim 52 wherein the adhesive is applied to the lower surface of the elongated connectors.